Sam LeFlore

Baseball Article

The Cougar baseball team has finished their season strong and are moving into the playoffs with a lot of momentum. Their final regular season record was 17-3 and they have already moved into post season play. The Cougars are ranked 63 in the state and 1862 in the nation.

The 2010-2011 varsity baseball team has some very strong players that have led the team through their extremely successful season. One of which is Daniel Stewart. Stewart has thrown four shut outs this season and the team has a total of eleven shut outs the whole season. The team’s main leaders and Alex Jensen, Austin White, and Collin Manning.

“Our pitching isn’t the only thing that’s making us win, the defense behind our pitcher has been playing great,” said Coach Belk.

Some bright spots on the team are Alex Jensen and Collin Manning, who will be going on to play baseball in college. Jensen will be going to play at Army and Manning will be playing at College of the Holy Cross.

Many of the juniors and seniors on the team have scouts from various colleges coming out to watch them play, and see if they are cut out to play college baseball.

The cougars biggest competition this year as always is West Mecklenburg and Olympic. This year the cougars hope to go far in the post season.

“I’d be lying if I said nobody expected us to do well in the post season tournament, this year,” said Coach Belk.

Last year the team got knocked out of the tournament early, making it only as far as the third round. This year, with the strength of the defense and the pitching, the cougars are sure to go far.

“It all depends on how we play that day, the pitcher has to be in a good rhythm and we have to play smart,” said Coach Belk.

The new field in Pineville was a long anticipated feature to the baseball team. The field was refurbished over the summer and has new dugouts, a grass infield, and is a much better environment.

“Pineville has been great to us, the new field is like playing on a minor league field,” said Coach Belk.